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ZNY SSSS ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2569
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 2588
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 1750
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2638
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHFMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 000258

SIPDIS

FOR EAP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/07/2019

TAGS: PARM PGOV PREL KNNP KN MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA: NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE YET TO NORTH KOREAN
MISSILE LAUNCH

REF: STATE 33031

Classified By: Political Counselor Mark D. Clark for reasons 1.4 b and d.

¶1. (C) The Ambassador conveyed the President's statement and additional reftel points on North Korea's April 5 missile launch to Malaysian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Rastam Mohd Isa on April 6. Rastam has yet to respond and in follow-up with MFA contacts in the East Asia, Americas and Multilateral divisions, none were prepared to reply regarding Malaysia's position. One MFA contact noted that the MFA is preoccupied with the change of administration and the anticipated announcement this week of a new Foreign Minister.

¶2. (C) Poloff spoke with South Korean DCM Ji-ah Paik on April 8. Paik noted that the ROK ambassador had personally approached the MFA regarding Malaysia's response to the North Korean missile launch, but without success. On April 8 the MFA notified the ROK embassy that Malaysia would not release an official statement on this issue. The MFA did mention to Paik, however, that new Prime Minister Najib Razak would make a statement if asked during the April 11-12 East Asia Summit in Thailand, which South Korea will also attend. The MFA told Paik that they did not know how the PM would respond, indicating the MFA still awaited policy guidance from the Prime Minister's office.

KEITH